

YELLOWTAILS UNWINDING

LAST MONTH we reported on the yellowtails which had been moved from one of the Aquarium's 1,000-gallon tanks to another twice the size. At that time the fish were swimming in a circle in one half of the tank, steadfastly refusing to cross over the center. At this writing they are moving in a somewhat larger circle, and occasionally coast past the center of the tank perhaps a foot or so. Horseback opinions are that they will be completely "unwound" in a few more weeks.

LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS?

THE NEXT MEETING of the Astronomy Section will be held at 8 P. M., Wednesday, October 26, in the Student Lecture Room.

Leon Salanave, associate curator of astronomy, will give an illustrated talk titled "Atmospheres of the Planets." The intriguing question of life on other worlds is intimately tied up with our understanding of the chemical composition, temperature, and pressure in planetary atmospheres. Some recent speculations about the presence of water on Venus will be discussed.

There will be an observing session with the telescope after the meeting—sky conditions permitting.

ADVANCE NOTICE

THE REGULAR November meeting of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 P. M., November 8. Walter H. Shackleton, Audubon screen tour lecturer, will present a color film, "Rhapsody in Bluegrass."

NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of September 15, 1955:

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Allan E. Aitel
Mr. Rex W. Allen
Mrs. R. Homans Conner
Mr. Peter T. Furst
Mr. W. Udo Segert
Miss E. Margaret Tetzlaff
Mr. Crawford Thomas
Mr. William E. Turpen

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Alfred A. de Lorimier
Mr. Nathan J. Friedman
Mr. L. T. Hayes
Rev. Keppel W. Hill
Dr. Alvin H. Jacobs
Mr. Melvin C. Sutton

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Photo by Dr. Robert T. Orr

OASIS IN GUADALUPE CANYON
(See Page 2)

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October Announcement

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:00 P. M., Wednesday, October 5, in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium. The names of persons elected to the Board of Trustees and the Council will be announced, and reports of officers and staff members will be presented.

In addition to the short business portion of the meeting, Dr. Robert T. Orr, curator, Department of Birds and Mammals, will present an illustrated lecture:

"THE PALMS OF GUADALUPE"

Dr. Orr is not a stranger to the desert wastes of Lower California. In 1952 he and Joseph R. Slevin, curator of herpetology, traveled overland down the west side of Baja to the Viscaino Desert, which occupies the central part of the peninsula.

On this past summer's adventure he was again accompanied by Slevin and by Cecil Tose, curator of the Department of Exhibits. They set out this time to explore and collect vertebrates in the northeastern part of this Mexican state. Their aim was to visit some of the little-known canyons along the east base of the Sierra Juarez, where, according to Dr. Orr, a number of mineral springs and desert palms provide oases to rival the famed Palm Springs of California's Colorado Desert. Despite opposition provided by the heat of summer and the treacherous sands (which were mentioned briefly in last month's *News Letter*) the venture was profitable. They found desert plants and animals concentrated around these lonely oases because of the available water. One of the most beautiful of these havens inspired the expedition members to continue on deep into the mountain range whose sheer eastern face provided a backdrop to the scene before them.

With the aid of Kodachrome slides, Dr. Orr will take his audience from the Sea of Cortez, where Mexican fishermen ply their trade, across one of the most barren deserts of North America to Guadalupe Canyon, and thence up into the pine covered plateau of the Sierra Juarez.

ATTENTION DON KELLEY

WITH the indulgence of other Academy members we include this item for the exclusive enjoyment of Don Greame Kelley, editor of *Pacific Discovery*. Dr. Orr reported that during the trek across the desert country east of the Sierra Juarez

only two men were encountered—one of whom identified himself as a reader of *Pacific Discovery*, and requested a reprint of an article by Dr. Orr which appeared recently in the magazine.

From this random sample, we conclude that half the population of Lower California reads *Pacific Discovery*.

DR. WEBSTER RETURNS TO MEXICO

THE ACADEMY has an expedition afield in the person of Dr. J. Dan Webster, professor of zoölogy, Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana. Dr. Webster, who is a research associate in the Department of Birds and Mammals here, left September 1 on an ornithological collecting trip to be conducted in the Mexican states of Durango, Zacatecas, and Chihuahua. About the middle of October he will come to the Academy, where he will stay until the end of January working on his new material and on past collections obtained from Mexico. This is the fourth Mexican expedition Dr. Webster has made for the Academy.

DR. ROSS LECTURES IN PORTLAND

DR. EDWARD S. ROSS, curator, Department of Entomology, represented the California Academy of Sciences at a joint meeting of the Washington and Oregon entomological societies which was held September 9-10 at Portland. On September 9 he gave a lecture, "Jungle Insects Close Up," which described his recent trip to the Andean region of South America. On the second day he participated in a symposium on insect collections available for scientific study in museums of the Pacific Northwest.

CUNNINGHAM PHOTOS EXHIBITED

ON EXHIBIT NOW in Lovell White Hall is an exhibit of 17 photographs by Imogen Cunningham, noted Bay Area photographer. Miss Cunningham's work has frequently appeared in national magazines and abroad. Although she is known as a specialist in portraiture, she has selected a wide range of subjects for the showing here, including studies of sea shells and plant leaves. The photographs will be exhibited throughout October.

ANCHOVIES ON VIEW

ABOUT two thousand half-grown anchovies are now making their home in Steinhart Aquarium, and a portion of them are on public display. The fish were obtained from San Francisco Bay by Morris E. Morgan, marine biologist, and Walter W. Schneebeil, Aquarium collector, who fished from aboard a commercial fishing boat owned by William Rowland of El Cerrito.

The anchovies will be used for scientific investigations being conducted by Morgan, Anatole Loukashkin, and Norman Grant.